

Dear Students and Exchange Scholars attending U.S. schools,

Happy Holidays! Congratulations to all of the Chinese students and exchange scholars who are successfully studying in the U.S. after receiving a visa at one of the U.S. consular post in China. We sincerely hope that you are finding studying in the United States to be a rewarding experience! We know this is a busy time, and we wish you all the best.

You are receiving this email because you applied for a U.S. student visa in China within the last year. For those of you who may be returning to China during the upcoming winter or summer breaks, we have some helpful visa information we would like to share with you about our convenient visa renewal service available at all of the U.S. government's visa processing offices in China. As many of you already know, the service is called the "drop off renewal" and allows students and exchange scholars to renew their U.S. visas without having to wait in line or go through another interview.

*We are pleased to announce that our drop off renewal service has new reduced prices! As of **December 25, 2010**, the fees will be **only 100 RMB for student visa applicants** applying for F and M visas and senior citizens who are 70 and above, and **120 RMB for all others!**

Beginning **January 1, 2011**, use of the drop-box renewal service will be mandatory for all drop-box eligible applicants. This is in order to better serve our visa customers, and keep our wait times for visa interviews in China to a minimum.

The drop-off renewal process works like this: After filling out the DS-160 online application form and paying the MRV fee, holders of valid (or expired for less than one year) F, J and M class visas who plan to return to the U.S. to continue their studies can drop off their passports and application materials at your nearest CITIC Bank Frequent Traveler Acceptance location. This option saves you a trip to the nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy, as well as saves you time waiting in line for another unnecessary visa interview! This option is **only** available to you if you travel back to China and need to reapply for the same type of visa. It is not possible to mail your passport from the United States for renewal.

Complete information about the drop off renewal service can be found online at http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/niv_renewal.html. One important thing to note: No one will be refused a visa on the basis of the paperwork submitted through the drop off renewal program. While most visas can be easily renewed on the basis of the submitted documentation, if there are questions or concerns about your case, you will be invited for an interview so that you can explain.

Please do not respond to this email, as we are unable to receive inquiries at this email address. For general information about visas see our website at http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/niv_info.html. If you need to renew your visa, please take advantage of this convenient and time-saving program. Best of luck with your studies!

Sincerely,

The American Embassy and Consulates in China